THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of India already has a Cultural Exchange Programme with Hungary under which the Government of Hungary offers 6 scholarships for Indian students annually for doctoral and post-doctrol studies. It is not considered necessary to have any change in this.

'Sell India' schemes for Tourism

3255. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a 'Sell India' Scheme to boost tourism; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Losses of Vayudoot

3256. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot, the third airline, has incurred a loss of Rs. 30 crores, so far;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to run the undertaking profitably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. After adjustment of profit of Rs. 2.76 lakhs and Rs. 12.97 lakhs respectively for the years 1983-84 and 1984-85, Vayudoot has incurred an estimated cumulative loss of Rs. 11.90 crores as on 31.3.1988.

(b) The losses have mainly been due to:

(i) induction of new generation Dornier aircraft which resulted in increase in aircraft costs on account of depreciation, interest and other charges;

(ii) increased interest payments on account of fluctuations in exchange rates;

(iii) high expenditure on consumables for repairs/maintenance and premature engine failures; and

(iv) operations on short haul routes which are uneconomical.

(c) The following steps are proposed to be taken by the company for improving its performance:

(i) induction of cost-effective aircraft for short-haul operations;

(ii) operation of longer and high density routes after induction of bigger capacity aircrafts;

(iii) adoption of measures to increase yield per passenger and load factor; and

(iv) aggressive marketing for courier services;

Prime Minister's visit to China

3257. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dates for the Prime Minister's visit to China have now been finalized;

(b) what are the agreements likely to be signed during this visit; and